



## U.S. Department of Justice

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July 22, 2010

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FROM: Michael Kawahara  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

RE: USA v. Christie, et. al., USDC(Hawaii)  
Criminal Case No. 10-00384 SOM

Following up on our prior letter of July 21, 2010, please find attached a copy of the transcript of the now-unsealed hearing on

May 18, 2004 in the Barnes case involving Mr. Christie.

If you have any questions about the foregoing, please contact me at 440-9220.

cc: Chief U.S. District Judge Susan Oki Mollway (w/att.)

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

3 )  
4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) CR 03-00502 SOM  
5 )  
6 Plaintiff, ) Honolulu, Hawaii  
7 vs. ) May 18, 2004  
8 ) 9:00 A.M.  
9 MICHAEL TRENT BARNES, )  
10 ) F/H Government's Motion  
11 Defendant. ) in Limine to Exclude  
12 ) Evidence at Trial  
13 \_\_\_\_\_)

14 TRANSCRIPT OF SEALED PROCEEDINGS  
15 BEFORE THE HONORABLE SUSAN OKI MOLLWAY  
16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

17 APPEARANCES:

18 For the Government: BEVERLY WEE SAMESHIMA  
19 Office of the U.S. Attorney  
20 PJKK Federal Bldg.  
21 300 Ala Moana Blvd. Ste. 6100  
22 Honolulu, HI 96850

23 For the Defendant: MICHAEL A. GLENN  
24 Low Cost Legal Services  
25 Executive Ctr.  
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Official Court Reporter: Debra Kekuna Chun, RPR, CRR  
United States District Court  
300 Ala Moana Blvd. Ste. C285  
Honolulu, HI 96850  
(808) 534-0667

26 Proceedings recorded by machine shorthand, transcript  
27 produced with computer-aided transcription (CAT).

1 TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2004 9:05 O'CLOCK A.M.

2 (Sealed hearing in open court:)

3 THE COURT: Miss Tower, you wanted to be heard.

4 MS. TOWER: Good morning, Your Honor. Pamela

5 O'Leary Tower on behalf of Roger --

6 THE WITNESS: Christie.

7 MS. TOWER: -- Christie, the witness -- the  
8 proposed witness in this case. Defense witness, I might  
9 add.

10 I have taken the court's suggestion and have  
11 spoken to Reverend Christie about what I believe his  
12 testimony would entail were he to take the stand. And  
13 without disclosing that but based upon my own professional  
14 experience, it's my opinion that, if he takes the stand  
15 and even states after his name what he does, he will have  
16 opened the door to any cross-examination by the government  
17 counsel.

18 I would hope that defense counsel for Reverend  
19 Barnes wouldn't do such a thing. I suspect that he  
20 intends to. I have grave concerns about that, something  
21 that I might want to talk to the court about later  
22 separately. But I have extra concerns for Reverend  
23 Christie because, if he does testify as anticipated, as I  
24 understand, he will incriminate himself.

25 THE COURT: Yeah. Well, this was my concern to

1 start with; so the witness will recall I raised this  
2 concern. And then at that time I was not even aware that  
3 Mr. Glenn was his attorney. He confirmed that Mr. Glenn  
4 was his attorney. Mr. Glenn professed that this was no  
5 problem. I was totally unpersuaded and had you come up,  
6 which I am very grateful to you for doing on just a  
7 moment's notice.

8 But you understand that your independent  
9 attorney, who really has no ax to grind in this, who has  
10 no interest in the merits of the government's case or the  
11 merits of Mr. Barnes' defense, but whose only interest is  
12 in making sure that you take advantage of all the  
13 protections that our constitution offers you, that she is  
14 concerned that you are putting yourself in harm's way if  
15 you testify.

16 Now, knowing that, what is it that you propose  
17 to do in this hearing?

18 THE WITNESS: I'm very grateful for her  
19 advice -- I'm very grateful for her advice, and I  
20 understand the risk. My ministry is about speaking the  
21 truth about this issue, and I feel strongly about it. I  
22 have testified in other -- in state cases, and I feel  
23 that's part of my service to the people in my ministry  
24 that I will testify in their favor. And I feel like I  
25 need to keep doing so.

1 MS. TOWER: I think, though, by testifying in  
2 their favor, I've explained to Reverend Christie that it  
3 requires him to incriminate himself because in the offer  
4 of proof, which is what defense counsel said Reverend  
5 Barnes, the defendant, will testify to or will offer  
6 evidence about, it's fully incriminating. Thank God, it's  
7 not signed by Reverend Barnes. But that's what the nature  
8 of the testimony is going to be, as I understand it. It  
9 has to be -- in order for them to meet the threshold that  
10 Your Honor says is the legal threshold to present this  
11 defense, they have to show the existence of a church and a  
12 tenet. And once they get into the tenet, that's -- it's  
13 all over in my opinion, Your Honor. He will open himself  
14 to federal prosecution.

15 The fact that the state has not done anything is  
16 of no concern to me because there's a statute of  
17 limitations over there as well, and they may well be  
18 waiting, or they just may well not care. But they're  
19 different systems, and there's -- the federal system may  
20 care. In fact, I think they will care. And my concern is  
21 that the minute he opens his mouth to answer the questions  
22 put to him by defense counsel, who is in my opinion  
23 putting this man in harm's way, that that is sufficient  
24 for a search warrant, that the ball will roll, that it can  
25 simply only get worse for Reverend Christie.

1           THE COURT: You see, this is what's going to  
2 happen. I know that you have followers that you would  
3 like to serve. But it will probably undermine your  
4 ability to serve those people if you end up being in jail  
5 for a number of years, and that is a distinct possibility  
6 if you testify.

7           The federal government is much more aggressive  
8 with the drug crimes than the state sometimes is. That's  
9 not always true, but you understand, first of all, there  
10 are different jurisdictions. Many times the state will  
11 hold back and cooperate with the federal government so  
12 that the federal government will end up being the entity  
13 that prosecutes, not the state. And the reason for that  
14 often is that, when the law enforcement agents on both  
15 sides, the state and the federal side, look at what the  
16 penalties are, for most of these drug crimes the penalties  
17 are significantly higher in the federal system than they  
18 are in the state system.

19           So if you were prosecuted and you were found  
20 guilty, you would probably be looking at years, not  
21 months, and I want you to understand that that is highly  
22 unlikely to help you in your ministry, and you may better  
23 serve your ministry by being available to people to help  
24 them.

25           I am very concerned about this. I am not



1 questioning the sincerity of your beliefs, but I am  
2 concerned that the first advice -- well, I don't know if  
3 it's the first advice, but your primary legal advice has  
4 been from Mr. Glenn, and his loyalties were not entirely  
5 to you. I realize that he is taking the position that  
6 they were not divided loyalties, that all of the people  
7 that he was representing have the same interests. I am  
8 not persuaded of that. I have real concerns that your  
9 interests are quite distinct from other interests that he  
10 has a duty to represent.

11 THE WITNESS: I think you're correct in that.

12 THE COURT: And so I want to make sure that that  
13 divided loyalty on his part is not coloring the way that  
14 you are considering what I'm saying and what your attorney  
15 is saying.

16 You see, I would like for this to be a fair  
17 trial, but I do not have a stake in who ultimately wins at  
18 trial. I would like the process to be fair. The result  
19 that occurs is the result that occurs. It will not  
20 benefit me or hurt me one way or the other if the jury  
21 finds for the prosecution or for the defendant.

22 But in that process, in insuring that the  
23 process is fair, somebody has to protect you. And that is  
24 why you have this attorney, who has nothing to do with any  
25 other person or entity in this case and has that loyalty

1     only to you.   So I urge you to take seriously what it is  
2     she is telling you.

3                 MS. TOWER:   I think the other concern I have,  
4     too, is that you need to understand that I represent you,  
5     not defense counsel and not his client, and that my duty  
6     of loyalty is to you alone.   And as a defense attorney, I  
7     understand his need, defense counsel's, to put on the best  
8     defense for his client.   But I also understand that in  
9     situations having to do with witnesses who may have  
10    helpful information, in most cases it's not incriminating  
11    information, but you need to be very careful with advising  
12    them.   My feeling is you have not been fully advised of  
13    the ramifications -- the almost certain ramifications of  
14    your testimony should you go ahead and testify as you've  
15    indicated that you might want to.

16                This is a sealed hearing right now.   It's in  
17    camera.   You have no obligation to tell Mr. Bennett what  
18    it is that was shared here.

19                THE COURT:   Mr. --

20                THE WITNESS:   Mr. Barnes, Reverend --

21                MS. TOWER:   I mean, no, Reverend Barnes or the  
22    defense counsel.

23                THE COURT:   Mr. Glenn.

24                MS. TOWER:   Mr. Glenn.   I'm sorry.   You have no  
25    obligation to tell anybody.   That's why it's a sealed

1 hearing. It's between you and me, and it stays with you  
2 and me and with the court personnel and the judge.

3 THE COURT: But, you see, we are not asking you  
4 the substance of your testimony. We are simply warning  
5 you that certain consequences may flow from certain  
6 testimony. But right now you are not giving us the facts  
7 that you will have to give if you are sitting in that  
8 witness chair and the attorneys for both sides are here.

9 First of all, I am concerned that what Mr. Glenn  
10 will ask of you will by itself incriminate you, but that  
11 isn't even half of the problem because you can be sure  
12 that Miss Sameshima is going to be fairly aggressive in  
13 questioning you, and she is going to be laying the  
14 foundation for what I think -- I think you have to assume  
15 that within a few weeks there will be federal agents at  
16 your place and that you will be arrested and that you will  
17 then be put in jail. And maybe you'll get out on bail,  
18 but, eventually, you'll be in Mr. Barnes' position. And  
19 if you are found guilty, then, as I say, it will be  
20 years -- not days, not months, not weeks, but likely years  
21 that you will be in jail. And it may be that you will not  
22 be held here in Honolulu even. It may be that you will be  
23 shipped to some facility on the mainland because that is  
24 not something that I nor you will control.

25 Would you like to talk to Miss Tower further?

1 THE WITNESS: I really get the drift, and I'm  
2 becoming convinced that --

3 MS. TOWER: I don't want --

4 THE WITNESS: I have a cause. I mean, I have a  
5 person -- I'm a person and I have a cause, and I want the  
6 cause to continue.

7 THE COURT: Yes.

8 THE WITNESS: The cause is enormous, and it's  
9 disserved if I'm behind bars --

10 THE COURT: That's right.

11 THE WITNESS: -- from my point of view.

12 THE COURT: That's right. This is not a  
13 situation where martyrdom on your part is going to inspire  
14 people. As I understand what you are doing, and I can't  
15 profess to be fully informed on your ministry, but it is  
16 one of education. And if I am correct that it is one of  
17 education, education is not going to effectively occur if  
18 you are not there to perform that primary task that you  
19 have devoted yourself to and have taken upon yourself.

20 So far from thinking that you are going to  
21 martyr yourself and thereby inspire followers, I think you  
22 have to be fearful that your cause will die without your  
23 inspiration present. And so I don't know that your  
24 greater end is going to be served by sacrificing yourself  
25 in this way for one person, when you have many other

1 people that you would like to minister to.

2 MS. TOWER: There's one other thing we  
3 overlooked, or at least I overlooked, is that during the  
4 course of your testimony, should you choose to testify --  
5 and we don't think you should -- I don't, as your  
6 counsel -- Miss Sameshima or even Mr. Glenn, I don't know  
7 his agenda. Glenn; right? Could ask you about his own  
8 client --

9 THE COURT: That's correct.

10 MS. TOWER: -- and you would be put in the  
11 position of incriminating his client.

12 THE COURT: And others.

13 MS. TOWER: And others.

14 THE COURT: You may well be asked about other  
15 people.

16 MS. TOWER: Reverend Christie, how many others  
17 are members, you know, naming names. And, certainly, the  
18 prosecutor would be well within her rights in order --

19 THE COURT: Yes.

20 MS. TOWER: -- to establish or not establish the  
21 existence of a church of finding how many members are in  
22 this putative church; so --

23 THE COURT: And who they are.

24 MS. TOWER: And who they are.

25 THE COURT: So that you may end up -- I mean, it

1 will be one thing for you to say that you will give  
2 yourself over to this risk, but what will you do, in  
3 giving yourself over, to putting other people also behind  
4 bars with you? Your entire congregation may be put behind  
5 bars as a result.

6 And these are very real. This is not a scare  
7 tactic. I think it is a highly probable result of your  
8 testifying. And no matter how strongly held your  
9 religious beliefs are, I cannot see what profit you get  
10 spiritually out of putting you and yourself behind bars  
11 for years.

12 THE WITNESS: I choose not to go in that  
13 direction to martyr myself. My cause has called me to  
14 be -- to build my own courage, I must say, in a very  
15 public way. In state court, in the newspapers, throughout  
16 the State of Hawai'i, on the Internet, I'm a very public  
17 person about my sacrament and about my cause, and I'm  
18 frankly surprised that I'm coming to this conundrum  
19 today --

20 THE COURT: Well, you see --

21 THE WITNESS: -- because I have done such bold  
22 things that people have advised me against for so long.

23 THE COURT: But there is something special about  
24 promising to tell the truth and making those very same  
25 statements in a courtroom under oath. That is a big

1 difference. And regardless of what danger may come to you  
2 from speaking out publicly, to the press, to the media, on  
3 the web, there is a material difference between that and  
4 sitting in this witness chair, promising to tell the  
5 truth. That sitting in the witness chair, promising to  
6 tell the truth, and incriminating yourself is a surefire  
7 way to get charged with a crime.

8 THE WITNESS: I didn't know that that was  
9 crossing a new threshold, and I thank you for bringing it  
10 to my attention, Your Honor. You've been very kind in  
11 looking out for my well-being.

12 I'd like to continue being a bold activist and  
13 for this cause, very worthy cause.

14 THE COURT: Okay. That may have other -- there  
15 may be other legal advice you should get on that, but Miss  
16 Tower and I right now are only concerned about you sitting  
17 on the witness chair in this case. So I take it that you  
18 are now going to exercise your right not to take the  
19 stand.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Then let's open the doors and  
22 call people in.

23 (Sealed hearing concluded.)

24

25

1 COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 I, Debra Kekuna Chun, Official Court Reporter,  
3 United States District Court, District of Hawaii, do  
4 hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript  
5 from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled  
6 matter.

7 DATED at Honolulu, Hawaii, August 4, 2006.

8

9 /s/ Debra Chun

10 DEBRA KEKUNA CHUN

11 RPR, CRR

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